



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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District of Arizona*

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## **VIOLENT FELON, GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO 33 MONTHS FOR POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

TUCSON – U.S. District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson sentenced Nathaniel J. Garcia, 24, of Sells, Ariz., on August 9 to 33 months in federal prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Garcia had pleaded guilty on April 25, 2007, admitting Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon.

On December 20, 2006, Nathaniel James Garcia, was in Sells, Ariz., on the Tohono O'odham Indian Nation in the District of Arizona. Garcia had in his possession a Smith & Wesson model 19, .357 caliber revolver, which was manufactured outside of Arizona. Garcia knew that the revolver was in his possession, and he admitted to police and as a part of his plea agreement that he had actually fired it on that date after he saw a vehicle run over a roadside memorial in Sells. Garcia also admitted, and court records confirm, that he was previously convicted of a felony crime of violence, that is, Voluntary Manslaughter (with a firearm), on November 25, 2002. Records show that Garcia was sentenced to 46 months in prison and three years of supervised release in that case, and that his supervised release was revoked after having been out of custody for approximately six months, and he then served another 9 months in prison and 160 days in a halfway house. Garcia is admittedly involved in a criminal street gang, and today's sentence included a special condition of supervised release that he not be involved in any gang activity, not possess any gang paraphernalia, and not associate with any person affiliated with a gang.

Garcia's prosecution is part of the District of Arizona's Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), an illegal firearms enforcement program. The effectiveness of Project Safe Neighborhoods in Arizona is based on the ability of federal, state, and local agencies to cooperate in a unified offensive that is led by the U.S. Attorney. Through ongoing partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, the U.S. Attorney is implementing a series of strategies that are contoured to fit the specific gun crime problems throughout Arizona.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Tohono O'Odham Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution was handled by Jennifer J. Maldonado, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona.

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